



What is Pertussis or Whooping Cough?

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a contagious disease that can cause serious illness in infants, children, teenagers, and adults. However, infants have the highest risk for severe illness and complications. Unvaccinated adults and teens can spread pertussis to an infant without even knowing it.

How can I protect my infant from Pertussis?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine for all adults aged 19-64 years of age. It is highly recommended for people:

- Who live with or take care of infants less than 1 year of age;
- Women who might become pregnant;
- New mothers and fathers before leaving the hospital;
- Healthcare personnel;
- > 65 years who are in close contact with infants <1 year old; and
- Pregnant women after 20 weeks gestation.

What could happen if my infant gets pertussis?

This bacteria can start off like a common cold, but the cough can become severe after 1 to 2 weeks, and could last for months. The infant will continue to cough again and again until all of the air is out of their lungs. Then when they inhale, you will hear a loud “whooping” sound. More than half of the infants younger than 1 year of age are hospitalized. Some infants with pertussis end up with pneumonia. Other complications may include, but rare, are:

- Seizures;
- Brain Disorder and;
- Sometimes death.

Talk with your doctor about pertussis or whooping cough today. Help prevent the spread of pertussis in Montana.



For more information call the Immunization Program at 406.444.5580 or visit www.immunization.mt.gov.



What is Pertussis or Whooping Cough?

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a contagious disease that can cause serious illness in infants, children, teenagers, and adults. However, infants have the highest risk for severe illness and complications. Unvaccinated adults and teens can spread pertussis to an infant without even knowing it.

How can I protect my infant from Pertussis?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine for all adults aged 19-64 years of age. It is highly recommended for people:

- Who live with or take care of infants less than 1 year of age;
- Women who might become pregnant;
- New mothers and fathers before leaving the hospital;
- Healthcare personnel;
- > 65 years who are in close contact with infants <1 year old; and
- Pregnant women after 20 weeks gestation.

What could happen if my infant gets pertussis?

This bacteria can start off like a common cold, but the cough can become severe after 1 to 2 weeks, and could last for months. The infant will continue to cough again and again until all of the air is out of their lungs. Then when they inhale, you will hear a loud “whooping” sound. More than half of the infants younger than 1 year of age are hospitalized. Some infants with pertussis end up with pneumonia. Other complications may include, but rare, are:

- Seizures;
- Brain Disorder and;
- Sometimes death.

Talk with your doctor about pertussis or whooping cough today. Help prevent the spread of pertussis in Montana.



For more information call the Immunization Program at 406.444.5580 or visit www.immunization.mt.gov.



What is Pertussis or Whooping Cough?

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a contagious disease that can cause serious illness in infants, children, teenagers, and adults. However, infants have the highest risk for severe illness and complications. Unvaccinated adults and teens can spread pertussis to an infant without even knowing it.

How can I protect my infant from Pertussis?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine for all adults aged 19-64 years of age. It is highly recommended for people:

- Who live with or take care of infants less than 1 year of age;
- Women who might become pregnant;
- New mothers and fathers before leaving the hospital;
- Healthcare personnel;
- > 65 years who are in close contact with infants <1 year old; and
- Pregnant women after 20 weeks gestation.

What could happen if my infant gets pertussis?

This bacteria can start off like a common cold, but the cough can become severe after 1 to 2 weeks, and could last for months. The infant will continue to cough again and again until all of the air is out of their lungs. Then when they inhale, you will hear a loud “whooping” sound. More than half of the infants younger than 1 year of age are hospitalized. Some infants with pertussis end up with pneumonia. Other complications may include, but rare, are:

- Seizures;
- Brain Disorder and;
- Sometimes death.

Talk with your doctor about pertussis or whooping cough today. Help prevent the spread of pertussis in Montana.



For more information call the Immunization Program at 406.444.5580 or visit www.immunization.mt.gov.